

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الامم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement of

H.E. Ambassador/ Maged Abdulaziz

**The Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations**

before

The First Committee

New York, October 7, 2009

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Egypt wishes to extend its congratulations to you for your election as president of the First Committee and to reaffirm its confidence in your leadership, and that of other members of the bureau, of the work of the Committee towards achieving the desired success. The delegation of Egypt associates itself with the Statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group, the Arab Group and the New Agenda Coalition.

The past few months have witnessed multiple international initiatives announcing the will to work towards a nuclear weapon free world and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Egypt welcomed those initiatives and stressed its hope for intensified collective efforts to transform such initiatives into effective practical and operational steps, based on the honest implementation of commitments and the realization of collective interests both for nuclear as well as non-nuclear weapon States.

In this context, Egypt looks forward to the successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations between the United States and the Russian Federation aiming at a new treaty on strategic arms reduction before the end of this year. We also hope that the conclusion of such a treaty will provide a strong incentive to other nuclear-weapon-States to follow-suit in their efforts to implement their commitments in the area of total and complete nuclear disarmament.

On the other hand, the adaption by the Conference on Disarmament of a programme of work this year, after a twelve year freeze of its negotiating role, allowing for the initiation of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off Treaty for nuclear weapons purposes opens the door for an international collective effort to deal with all other issues on the agenda of the Conference, on top of which comes nuclear disarmament. That in our view would enhance the international cooperation in dealing with this important issue in the multilateral international framework, in a manner that would allow each of the nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States to verify the implementation of the other party's commitments and promote confidence building accordingly.

It is undoubted that this positive spirit provokes a number of questions that will have an effect on the credibility of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and its three pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Indeed, non-nuclear-weapon-States, including Egypt will closely monitor how nuclear-weapon-States will deal with the issue of the production of new generations of nuclear weapons, submarines and aircraft-carriers etc. ...How they will deal with the significant developments in conventional weapons technology which has led-according to available information- to the production of new conventional weapons of highly destructive capability that may equal or supersede that of the nuclear weapons....How nuclear-weapon-States will deal with the nuclear umbrellas it provide to non-nuclear-

weapon-States...and how they will realign their relationship with existing military and political alliances, and even with the presence of nuclear weapons on the territories of non-nuclear-weapon-States members of such alliances.

At the time all such important issues are preoccupying the non-nuclear-weapon-states, the most pressing question today is how we will all deal with the three States which continue to stand in the way of achieving the universality of the NPT and thus most seriously threatens the credibility of the Treaty. Will nuclear-weapon-States accept to sharply reduce their nuclear arsenals while the three hold-out countries continue to develop and stock pile more nuclear weapons and more fissile materials for that purpose?Will the Nuclear Suppliers Group continue to present one concession after another to allow those States to continue to build their illegitimate nuclear arsenals and to grant them legitimacy?....Should we expect that the absence of any international control over the military nuclear activities of those countries will not affect international peace and security in the Middle East and South Asia?Do we only focus on the threat represented by those who might be suspected to have violated the Treaty after over some 40 years, during which we failed to realize the universality of the Treaty and have thus deepened the feeling of absence of nuclear security and the absence of military balances both regionally and internationally?.....Do we continue to classify those States as "responsible states" and ignore their acquisition of nuclear weapons while we deal with non-nuclear-weapon-States, members of the Treaty, as "irresponsible States" on the basis ideological or political reasons?... All these questions need convincing answers that would be based on respect of all previous commitments and more on the respect for the mutual interests on which the nuclear non-proliferation regime was originally founded. Otherwise, the collapse of the non-proliferation regime will be a logical conclusion that we will all regret, as a result of its ineffectiveness in achieving security and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

Upon the initiative of the United States, the Security Council held an important Summit last month on "Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation". The Summit adopted resolution 1887 which again reiterated that the NPT is a key pillar of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and that the balanced implementation of its three pillars is the only means to enhance this Treaty.

Despite the inclusion in the resolution of elements which do not reflect consensus, and include restrictions not stipulated in the NPT that would limit the ability of the non-nuclear weapon-states to enjoy their inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and despite its failure to even mention the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the mere convening of the Summit reflects the increased awareness of the international community of the current crucial stage of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and stresses the importance of saving the credibility of the Treaty especially as parties to the NPT have not implemented their commitments, especially those relating to nuclear disarmament under strict international multilateral control and in view of the obvious lack of action in achieving the universality of the Treaty, which

represents the main guarantor for enhancing its effectiveness on the regional and international levels.

Despite the adoption of resolution 1887 by the Security Council, the responsibility of implementation and review of the NPT remains, and will continue to be, that of its membership alone. At the same time, Egypt encourages the Council to push towards the implementation of its previous resolutions relevant to nuclear disarmament, on top of which is resolution 687 adopted under chapter 7, which stipulates that the elimination of the Iraqi nuclear weapon capabilities –which later proved not to exist- is a step towards the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. This also applies as well to the two resolutions of the General Assembly on “Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East” and on “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East” which are annually presented by Egypt to the General Assembly.

In addition to that, the Security Council also has a role in promoting the implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference resolution entitled “Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East” and its resolution entitled “Israeli nuclear capabilities”. Both are resolutions just adopted by the 53rd Session of the General Conference held last month.

This leads me to elaborate more on the situation in the Middle East. Israel still persistently rejects joining the NPT while it daily enhances its ambiguous nuclear capabilities outside the IAEA safeguards system. The former Israeli Prime Minister even admitted his country’s possession of nuclear weapons outside the legitimate framework of the NPT. Despite all that, Israel leads an international campaign against the Iranian nuclear capabilities, claiming they represent a threat to regional and international peace and security and constitute a violation to Iran’s commitments in the NPT, which Israel ironically rejects to acknowledge or join. Israel even links dealing with the Iranian nuclear file on the one hand, and achieving progress on the Middle East peace process on the other, in a flagrant practice of double standards and excessive politicization of the issue of acquisition of nuclear weapons, that is implicitly supported by the lack of any real effort on the part of the three nuclear-weapon-States which are the depositaries of the NPT, and which proposed and sponsored the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East in order to eliminate the ambiguous Israeli nuclear capabilities, to get Israel to join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon-State and to establish the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, particularly as all Arab States joined the treaty in full trust in the NPT regime and in its ability to overcome all obstacles, particularly achieving universality of the treaty in the Middle East.

Although Egypt opposes –in the strongest terms- the acquisition by any State in the Middle East of nuclear weapons –including Israel- as it will promote a dangerous military nuclear arms race in the region, it was rather astonishing that Statements of the members of the Security Council on the September 24th Summit –with the exception of the Arab member- did not contain any direct reference to the imperative of Israel’s accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State, and its placement of all nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards of the IAEA, at a time some Statements mentioned

other States in the region, stressing their need to abide most meticulously by the stipulations of the NPT. It is undoubted that this double standard in dealing with the issue provokes in the minds of our peoples many questions about the sincerity of the international commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world in accordance with recent international initiatives made by some members of the Security Council itself, and raises further questions on whether such initiatives will exempt one State or another for one reason or another, as they have already accepted that some States should not join NPT. Egypt thus reiterates that the chances for such initiatives to succeed will lie mainly in their universality and their fulfillment of the interests of all without exception.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this background, the 2010 NPT Review Conference will be held next May, representing a real test for the declarations of good will regarding the implementation of the commitments of nuclear-weapon-States in the area of disarmament, and the enhancement of balanced implementation of the three main pillars of the Treaty. We look forward to the conference to achieve serious institutional and practical measures to implement the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, as one of the key components of the indefinite extension package, without the implementation of which that package loses its credibility and effectiveness.

While Egypt expresses its appreciation for the importance given to the issue of the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East during the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Conference, based on proposals and ideas put forward by Egypt and the Arab Group, in order to effectively push towards the creation of effective practical mechanisms for the implementation of the resolution, and expresses its appreciation for the initiatives to convene workshops on this issue. We look forward to building on that support in order to adopt those proposals and start the implementation of the resolution, taking into account that starting the implementation of the resolution represents one of the main requirements of success for the 2010 Review Conference.

At the same time, the documents of the 2010 conference should reflect progress in granting non-nuclear-weapon States unconditional, legally binding negative security assurances, and guarantees that would prevent the repetition of the exemptions granted by the Nuclear Suppliers Group that go well beyond the authority of that Group and represent a clear violation of NPT commitments. The 2010 conference documents should neither impose any unfounded restrictions against non-nuclear-weapon-States which have been and remain committed to their obligations of the Treaty, nor limit the ability of those States to benefit fully from the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Such unfounded restrictions which include acceding to the Additional Protocol or any other conditions for receiving nuclear material and technology, or restrictions on the right to withdrawal before achieving universality, can only result in undermining the credibility of the Treaty and the NPT regime.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to Egypt's active role in supporting the NPT regime, Egypt continues to support international efforts to combat the proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction such a chemical, biological and radiological weapons, but the continued defiance by Israel to all calls aiming at convincing it to join NPT remains an obstacle for Egypt to accede to the CWC and the BTWC or even its ratification of the CTBT, despite the effective participation of Egypt in its negotiations and its early signature of this Treaty, since that would only result in widening the steep gap in commitments undertaken by States member to the NPT and States outside the Treaty which enjoy unlimited freedom in the nuclear area.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt actively participated in the work of the Open-Ended Working Group mandated to consider the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of an Arm Trade Treaty, which again proved that the issue is linked to complex and interrelated political, military and economic details, which need to be considered before the international community can be in a position to determine, in an objective manner, the feasibility of directing efforts and resources towards the drafting of such Treaty, it's practically possible scope and the parameters it can be based on. In light of that, Egypt believes that the current push to end the mandate of the Open-Ended Working Group and its transformation into a preparatory committee for a conference proposed to be held in 2012 represents a premature leap aimed at concluding the mentioned Treaty without basing such move on a consensual basis in the United Nations and before reaching agreement in the context the Open-Ended Working Group on any details related to the proposed Treaty.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Egypt reaffirms its intention to cooperate with you and with all States in order to achieve a real and serious breakthrough in the work of the First Committee which will contribute to promoting the international agenda on total and complete disarmament in a manner which will enhance the security of our peoples and contribute to promoting stability, peace and security throughout the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

